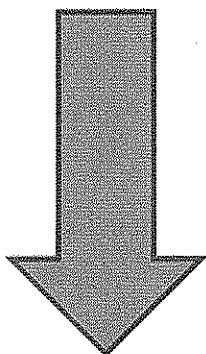




VINTON HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK OF 11/18-11/22/2013

- PTA Food & Necessities Drive
- PTA & Mansfield Human Services Sponsor Families for the Holidays
- Inclement Weather and Early Closing Letter from Superintendent
- School Photo Retakes December 3rd
- Eastern's Opera Workshop and Chamber Singers Present Magic, Myth & Mozart
- Inside Special Education Newsletter

PLEASE SEE TAKE HOME NOTICES BELOW



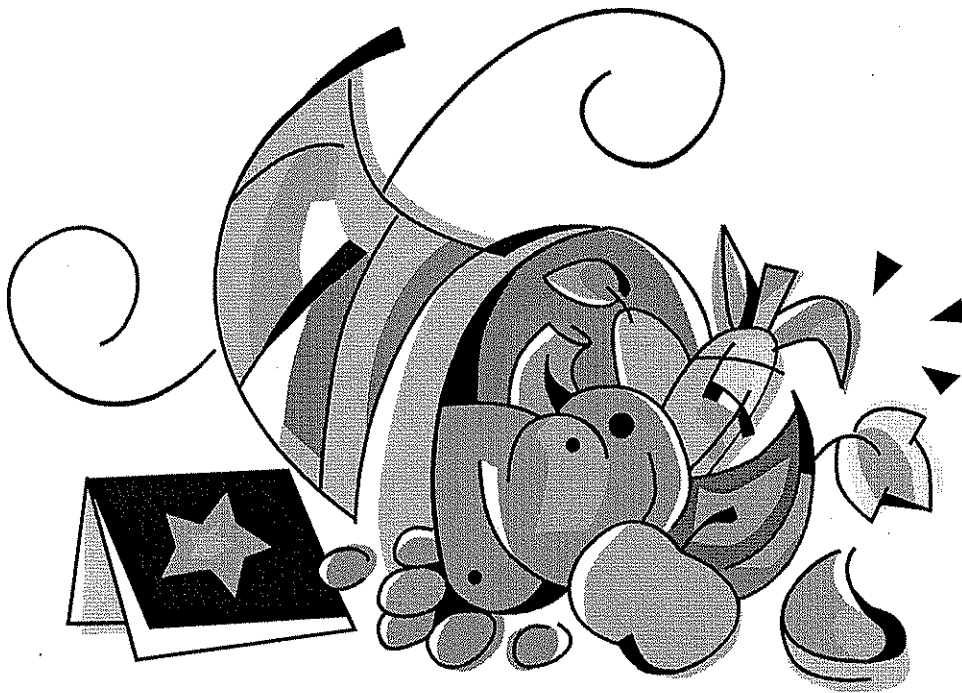
IN the spirit of GIVING...

Vinton PTA will be organizing a



FOOD AND NECESSITIES DRIVE

for the Covenant Soup Kitchen in Willimantic.
If you are able, please have your child bring in a
needed item on the day of the **Thanksgiving FEAST**.
We will also be accepting donations during Parent-
Teacher conferences on Nov 25-26.
THANK YOU for YOUR SUPPORT!



Needed Items

Emergency Food Pantry

Canned Fruit	Cereal
Canned or Dried Beans	Dried Pasta
Canned Ravioli	Paper & Plastic Bags
Canned Soup	Peanut Butter
Canned Stew	Powdered or Shelf Stable Milk
Canned Tuna	Rice (1 & 2 lb pkgs)
Canned Vegetables	Soup

For The Kitchen

Black Pepper	Ketchup
Chicken, Beef or Vegetable Broth	Margarine/Butter
Coffee	Mayonnaise
Cooking Spray	Non-wooden Cutting Boards
Dried Herbs & Garlic Powder	Plastic Spoons
Granulated Garlic	Salad Dressing
Grated Cheese	Sandwich, qt, & gal Baggies
Heavy Duty Handheld Can Openers	Small Disposable Salt & Pepper
Juice Boxes For Sunday Lunches	Sugar
Juice Juice Juice	Vegetable Oil

Personal Care Items

Conditioner	Shampoo
Deodorant	Shaving Cream
Disposable Razors	Soap
Feminine Hygiene Products	Toilet Paper
Laundry Detergent	Tooth Brushes
Mouthwash	Toothpaste



TO: All Vinton families

FROM: Vinton PTA



Please join the Vinton PTA in sponsoring local families who are in need this holiday season. This year we are partnering with Mansfield Human Services to help provide families with holiday gifts as well as a holiday meal.

We invite you to stop by the Vinton PTA bulletin board, located outside the front office, and take a star representing an item on one of the family wish-lists. Purchase the gift on the star and **return the item by Monday December 9th**. The gifts should be wrapped or in gift bags, and placed in the box located outside the front office. If purchasing a gift card, please put the card in an envelope or gift bag. **Please tape the star to the present so we know who the present is for.**

Thank you for your generosity in sharing the holiday spirit with families in our community!

If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Caneira at 860-450-8614 or Amy Lapsis at 860-450-8636. Thank you for your help!



THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF MANSFIELD, CONNECTICUT

FREDERICK A. BARUZZI, SUPERINTENDENT

AUDREY P. BECK BUILDING
FOUR SOUTH EAGLEVILLE ROAD
MANSFIELD, CT 06268
Phone: (860) 429-3350

November 20, 2013

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I write to provide the annual reminder about adjustments we must make when winter weather forces us to change our school and bus schedules. As most of you know, winter weather in New England is unpredictable at best. Mansfield frequently finds itself on a rain/ice/snow line. Parents at one end of town may wonder why we have called a delay, while parents at the other end of town will expect a cancellation.

There will be occasions when we will have to delay the opening of school, cancel classes or dismiss early because of road conditions. I am sensitive to the inconvenience these decisions cause our families; however, the issue of greatest importance is the safety of children. *You are encouraged to make your own assessment of weather conditions and keep your child at home if you feel a trip to school might be too dangerous.*

I must make the decision regarding a schedule adjustment no later than 5:30 a.m. I base it upon information I receive from the town road superintendent, the bus manager and weather forecasters. *For delayed openings, buses will pick up students 90 minutes later than usual.* Schools will close at the regular time. There may be an occasion on which school must be closed early due to an approaching storm or due to increasingly difficult road conditions that make a normal closing hazardous. *If you will not be home during the day, you must make arrangements for someone to receive your child in the event of an early closing.* Early closings will be 2 hours and 45 minutes in advance of the regular dismissal time. Please note the schedule on the reverse page.

This year, we will continue to use an automated communication system to send a recorded phone message announcing school closings/delayed openings/early closings to all parents using the phone numbers provided by parents/guardians to each school. This audio message will go to parents' emails as well. Additionally, all announcements of cancellations, late openings or early closings will be made using the local media's television/radio stations. Many of these stations also post these announcements on their websites.

In addition, we can now send a SMS text message to the cell phone of parent contact 1 and 2 on record in the school office for each child. In order to receive the SMS text message, you need to "opt-in". The process is simple and only takes a few seconds to complete. Simply send a text to **68453** from your cell phone(s) with the word "yes". If you do not opt-in, you will not receive the SMS text message. **We will no longer use CTWEATHER.com to send out emails / SMS text messages.**

If a delayed opening has been announced, you should continue to monitor local media or their websites for further information. Road conditions may deteriorate and a 90 delay may become a cancellation for the full day. *Please be sure that your children are dressed appropriately in case they have to wait longer for a bus that may be delayed due to poor road conditions.* We ask that you retain the reverse side of this letter for future reference. Your cooperation, understanding and assistance with these weather-related items are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Frederick A. Baruzzi

-Over, please-

EARLY-CLOSING DAYS / EMERGENCY CLOSINGS

HOURS—REGULAR SCHOOL DAY

Grades K-4	School starts - 8:55 AM; School ends - 3:30 PM
Morning Preschool & Half-Day Kindergarten	Session starts - 8:55 AM; Session ends - 11:45 AM
Afternoon Preschool	Session starts - 12:50 PM; Session ends - 3:30 PM
Grades 5-8	School starts - 8:05 AM; School ends - 2:50 PM

90-MINUTE DELAYED OPENING

Grades K-4	School starts - 10:30 AM; School ends - 3:30 PM
Morning Preschool & Half-Day Kindergarten	CANCELLED
Afternoon Preschool	Session starts - 12:50 PM; Session ends - 3:30 PM
Grades 5-8	School starts - 9:35 AM; School ends - 2:50 PM

SCHEDULED EARLY-CLOSING DAYS (November 25, 26, 27 and June 20)

Grades K-4	School starts - 8:55 AM; School ends - 12:45 PM
Half-Day Kindergarten	School starts - 8:55 AM; School ends - 10:50 PM
Grades 5-8	School starts - 8:05 AM; School ends - 12:05 PM

DELAYED OPENING ON A SCHEDULED EARLY-CLOSING DAY

Early closing is CANCELLED and normal closing time observed

Grades K-4	School starts - 10:30 AM; School ends - 3:30 PM
Morning Preschool & Half-Day Kindergarten	CANCELLED
Afternoon Preschool	CANCELLED
Grades 5-8	School starts - 9:35 AM; School ends - 2:50 PM

EMERGENCY EARLY CLOSING OF SCHOOL

Grades K-4	School dismisses - 12:45 PM
Morning Preschool & Half-Day Kindergarten	School day extended, dismisses - 12:45 PM <i>Note: Lunch will be provided</i>
Afternoon Preschool	CANCELLED
Grades 5-8	School dismisses - 12:05 PM

For information regarding school closing due to inclement weather or other emergencies, tune in to one of the following radio or television stations:

Radio: WILI 1400 AM & 98.3 FM, WTIC 1080 AM, WHCN 106 FM, WZMX (93.7 FM)

Television: WFSB (3), WVIT (30), WTNH (8), Cable Channel 14

Many of the above media outlets post the announcements on their websites as well.

Recorded messages will announce school closings or other emergencies using the parent 1 and 2 phone numbers and email addresses on record for each child in the school offices. Information is also available via a message on your school's main phone number.

We can now send a SMS text message to the cell phone of parent contact 1 and 2 on record in the school office for each child. In order to receive the SMS text message, you need to "opt-in". The process is simple and only takes a few seconds to complete. Simply send a text to 68453 from your cell phone(s) with the word "yes". If you do not opt-in, you will not receive the SMS text message. We will no longer use CTWEATHER.com to send out emails / SMS text messages.

**Stay tuned. If weather conditions deteriorate, a delay could become a full-day cancellation.*



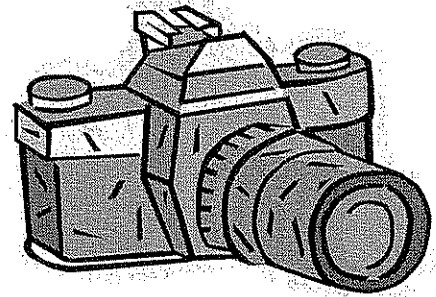
Annie E. Vinton Elementary School

306 Stafford Road
Mansfield Center, Connecticut 06250
<http://mansfieldct.org/schools/vinton>

James E. Palmer
Principal

Telephone: (860) 423-3086
Fax: (860) 456-4694

TO: Parent(s) and Guardian(s)
FROM: Vinton School PTA and
James E. Palmer, Principal
RE: School Photo Retakes



The photographer from Coffee Pond Photography will return to Vinton School on **Tuesday, December 3** to take pictures of those students who were absent when the photos were taken on October 7. The photographer will also retake pictures upon parental request.

If your child was absent from school on October 7 and you wish to have a photo taken on **December 3** please contact the school office. We have envelopes available for you to fill out with your package selection and for payment. Pictures will not be taken unless you have chosen a package and have included payment.

If you are requesting that your child's picture be retaken, please return the entire, undamaged picture packet on **December 3**. **However, please keep your class photo.** Retake packages will be distributed by the school about 3-5 weeks after Retake Day.

If you have any questions, you may contact Coffee Pond Customer Service Department at 1-800-632-2323, ext. "0," or by email at lifeguards@coffeepond.com.

As always, thank you for supporting the Vinton School PTA.

AN AFTERNOON OF OPERA FOR ALL AGES!

*Presented by Eastern's Opera Workshop and Chamber Singers
Dr. Emily Riggs and Dr. David Belles, directors*

Magic, Myth and Mozart

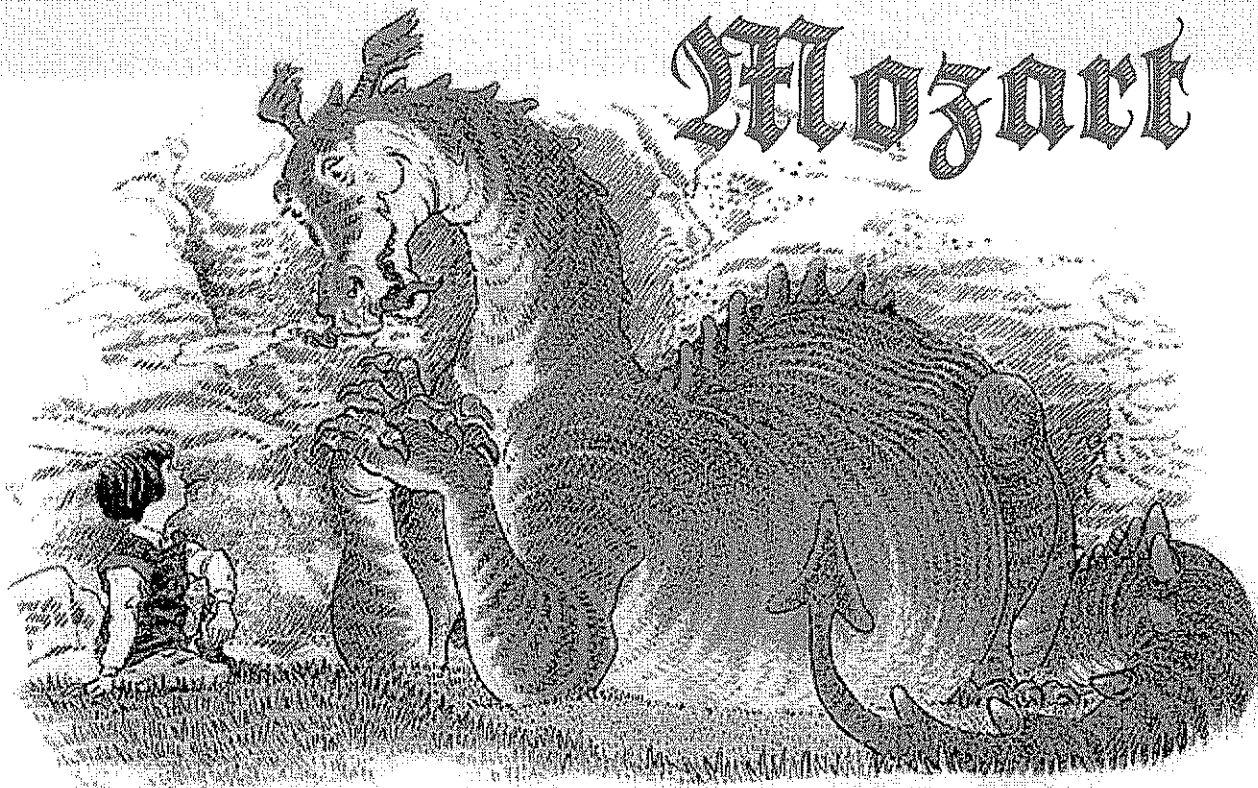


Illustration by Inga Moore, Candlewick Press, 2004

Selected scenes from Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro" and "The Magic Flute" and Engelbert Humperdinck's fairytale opera "Hansel and Gretel" (performed in English) followed by a performance of John Rutter's operetta, "The Reluctant Dragon" (based on the beloved children's book by Kenneth Grahame)

Saturday, Dec. 7, 2013 • 2:30 p.m.

BETTY R. TIPTON ROOM • STUDENT CENTER
EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

ADMISSION IS FREE!

Please bring a new or gently used books children's book or two that we can donate to a deserving child.

MUSIC
PROGRAM


EASTERN
CONNECTICUT
STATE UNIVERSITY



Inside Special Education

A newsletter published regularly by Directors of Special Education in Tolland, Mansfield and Willington, with the goal of providing direction, guidance, information and support to parents and families of students with special education needs.

Smarter Balanced Field Test

The next generation of high stakes testing is upon us. This school year districts have an assessment choice. Since the mid-1980s the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) has been administered to elementary and middle school students. During the mid-1990s the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) was introduced for 10th grade students. This school year with the implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) a new test is being piloted and our district has chosen to participate. Specifically, students in grades 3-8 and 11 will be assessed in English Language Arts/literacy and Math using the Smarter Balanced Field Test (SBFT). In order to appropriately assess students in the Science domain, the CMT will still be administered to students in grades 5 and 8, with the CAPT being used in grade 10.

This new assessment is computer based and adjusts academic levels up or down depending on student responses. Many accommodations, once available for students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) or a Section 504 Plan, are now embedded as universal tools, available to all. The most frequently used accommodation is extra time which also includes a separate setting. Since this is now embedded for all, it is no longer considered a specialized accommodation.

Most student annual review meetings were held in the spring of 2013. Therefore, for students with special needs or with a Section 504 Plan, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) has advised that IEP or Section 504 revisions are necessary to reflect any adjustments to the CMT/CAPT Accommodations form and to indicate whether a new SBFT Accommodations form is necessary. Additionally, a new IEP Page 9a has been created to reflect the SBFT. Your student's case manager will contact you regarding how the changes can be made. In most situations, it is likely that an IEP amendment will be created to include any

changes and the respective Accommodation form(s). The Amendment Signature Page must be signed by the parent. For parents who prefer, a Planning and Placement Team (PPT) meeting can be scheduled. Please stay tuned as we will be in touch to ensure that everything is in order for the spring 2014 testing window.

Pre-Writing Skills

The mastery of handwriting requires development of pre-writing skills.

The Occupational Therapist works closely with the teacher and parents to address these skills through activities, play, and instruction that builds a strong foundation for handwriting. By the latter half of kindergarten, most students have developed these pre-writing skills.

Here are the prerequisites that students need to have greater success with handwriting:

1. An established hand dominance
2. The ability to cross the midline of the body
3. A functional grasp
4. An understanding of directional terms and the ability to recognize similarities and differences in forms
5. The ability to copy basic lines and shapes
6. The ability to use two hands in an activity
7. The ability to coordinate eyes and hands together
8. The ability to maintain an adequate sitting posture
9. Orientation to print

Activities to promote these and other underlying skills can be easily incorporated into daily routines. Sports, games, and everyday activities at home can help children improve many of the functions that make up handwriting skills. It is more important for children to practice manipulating small objects through play and daily activities of living. Proficiency skills should follow once a solid foundation of manipulation skill is established.

The Referral Process for Special Education Students

If you are concerned about your child's progress in school and you think the problems may be related to an emotional or learning disability, you may need to refer your child for an evaluation. There are some things you should do first:

- 1) Speak to your child's teacher about your concerns. Many concerns may be typical for the age of your child.
- 2) The school must consider alternate interventions in the regular classroom before they can make a referral. These interventions must be documented and the progress must be monitored. Even with classroom interventions in place, a parent may refer their child for further evaluation.
- 3) Once the school receives the referral, a Planning and Placement Team (PPT) must meet to determine if an evaluation for special education service is necessary. The parent is a vital and equal member of the PPT. At this PPT, the team will discuss the child's progress, parent concerns, and interventions that have taken place.
- 4) If it is determined that an evaluation is needed, the types of evaluation and tests to be administered will be determined at the PPT. Parents will need to give the school written permission for the assessments/evaluation.
- 5) Another PPT will be scheduled to review the evaluation results and the team will determine if the child is eligible for special education.
- 6) If your child is eligible to receive special education, an Individualized Education Program (IEP) will be developed by the PPT. Parents must give their permission in writing for their child to receive special education services.

The entire process, from the initial referral to the implementation of the IEP must be completed within 45 school days.

Dear Ide A



Dear Ide A:

At PPT, the school told me my child will receive writing help from the special education teacher in his classroom because that is the least restrictive environment. What is least restrictive environment? Lori

Lori,

The Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) is the environment in which a student can succeed that is most like the environment in which nondisabled peers are educated. Based on the information you provide, the PPT determined that your child's needs in the area of writing can be met satisfactorily in the classroom setting while included with peers. If your child has IEP writing goal(s), specially designed instruction must be provided by a special education teacher. You can contact this teacher to discuss how your child's unique needs are being met in the classroom setting.

Sensory Friendly Films

AMC theaters provide special opportunities for families to enjoy their favorite films in a safe and accepting environment. The auditoriums dedicated to the program have their lights up, the sound turned down and audience members are invited to get up and dance, walk, shout or sing. The idea for the program began with a parent request for their autistic child. AMC are thrilled to now offer the program at locations nationwide. Upcoming screening:

December 7, 2013- Frozen 2-D

All shows are at 10:00 am local time. Call the theater to double check for any change in schedule.

AMC Loews Plainville 20
220 New Britain Avenue, Plainville, CT 06062

LINKS:

[Success SEPTO](#)

[Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center](#)

[State Education Resource Center](#)

[CT State Department of Education Bureau of Special Education](#)

[Autism Society of America](#)

[Connecticut Birth to Three](#)